

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067237
ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN
SCA/VO - MR. RYERSON
EA/J - MR. ECTON

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R 260051Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, JA, KN, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS TO U.S.

1. AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC) OFFICIALS
ROBERTA LEVENBACH AND B. TARTT BELL CALLED ON EA/K DIRECTOR
HURWITZ MARCH 25 TO DISCUSS PLANS OF TWO CHOSEN SOREN
MEMBERS IN JAPAN TO VISIT U.S. WITH COOPERATION OF AFSC.
PROPOSED TRIP WOULD TAKE PLACE IN MID-MAY AFTER CHOSEN
SOREN MEMBERS PAID SCHEDULED VISIT TO CANADA IN LATE APRIL.

2. ACCORDING TO LEVENBACH, PROPOSED TRIP WAS ESSENTIALLY
AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS, WHO WERE IN
TOUCH WITH LEVENBACH DURING VISITS SHE HAS MADE TO TOKYO.
AFSC WOULD NEITHER SPONSOR NOR PAY FOR VISIT, ALTHOUGH IT
WOULD ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH AFSC GROUPS IN A NUMBER OF U.S.
CITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS AT PRIVATE HOMES OF AFSC MEMBERS.
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LEVENBACH SAID PROSPECTIVE CHOSEN SOREN VISITORS HAD AGREED
NOT TO MAKE SPEECHES OR ATTEND MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF AFSC
FORUMS.

3. LEVENBACH SAID CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS INVOLVED WERE PAEK
HAN-KI AND KIM MYONG-CHOL. SHE DESCRIBED PAEK AS THE CHIEF
OF THE SECOND SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
OF THE CHOSEN SOREN AND A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION'S

CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE.

HE ATTENDED IPU MEETINGS IN LONDON AND SRI LANKA AS A MEMBER OF THE NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION. SHE SAID KIM WAS EDITOR OF AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLICATION CALLED "PEOPLE'S KOREA"; HE HAD VISITED CANADA AND THE USSR IN 1976.

4. LEVENBACH ASKED WHETHER IT APPEARED LIKELY THAT CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS WOULD BE ISSUED US VISAS. HURWITZ REPLIED THAT HE COULD GIVE NO DEFINITIVE RESPONSE AT THIS JUNCTURE BUT HOPED TO BE IN TOUCH SHORTLY.

5. FOR TOYKO: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ON CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS NAMED ABOVE AND THEIR TRAVEL PLANS. ANY VISA APPLICATIONS BY THEM SHOULD OF COURSE BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO DEPARTMENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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